



Sunday, April 18th, 2021
“While In Their Joy: Dancing Sure”
Third Sunday of Easter

GUESTS, Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, pastorkris@unionucc.org

NEW MEMBERS: For more information email Pastor Kris. pastorkris@unionucc.org or call the church office to speak to her.

We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God’s inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey and faith’s journey
You are welcome here.

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PRELUDE

Majesty

Jack Hayford (Arr. Bruce Greer)

WELCOME

L No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey

C You are welcome here.

GATHERING OUR STRENGTH

Threshold

Leader: This is the Easter Season! The season of new life – and a breath of the Spirit. As we enter this time of worship together, may we open our hearts to the renewal of our minds and our spirits. May we dare to let go and dance with renewed vigor as we allow resurrection hope to fill our bodies and souls!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: This Sunday acknowledges that sometimes we are unsure about our steps in this world. For the disciples, even “while in their joy” at seeing Jesus after the resurrection, they were still “disbelieving and wondering.” We are reminded that even though we may not know our next steps, we can be sure they will come because we are God’s beloved children, and so we have steps to follow – those of the resurrected Jesus.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: This is the call!

Face this new day, even when you aren't sure..

People: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Get ready for life, for life is all around.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of hope and set out
anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

HYMN Hallelu, Hallelu

SIT: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord!

SIT: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord!

STAND: Praise ye the Lord, SIT: Hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord, SIT: Hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord, SIT: Hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord.

Prayer

Leader: Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

You set this world in motion and gave it life.

Turn us to you when our steps are not sure.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Affirming the Peace Among Us

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

You are invited to turn to the people around you
and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

LEARNING THE STEPS

A Story for All Ages

Make sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram for our Children's Chat with Mrs. Puia posted weekly!

A Story for the Ages

First Reading: Luke 24:36b-48 (NRSV, adapted)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then Jesus said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3 (NRSV, adapted)

See what love the Holy One has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

“Teach Me to Dance” [refrain only]

Buy accompaniment [HERE](#)

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Leader: For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: **May our gratitude to you fill our days.**

Leader: We need your healing, O Holy One, for our troubled planet, for our nation, for all who are struggling in body, mind, relationships, and spirit.

We remember those who are suffering...

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: **Come, O God, and restore our lives.**

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

Leader: Be with each of us now.

May the dance of your Spirit ever call us to engage with you and with the needs around us. Lead us; guide us; surround and fill us.

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

Prayer of Jesus (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Leader: Jesus called his disciples “witnesses” to the possibility of resurrection. The world is in need of continued resurrection to new life. We are called to be witnesses to this journey to newness by offering our resources and our energy to the work of justice and love through our offering today.

Donate to God’s Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

OFFERING ENVELOPES you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING **This is a great time to try e-giving!** Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office. financialmanager@unionucc.org

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card
Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

STEPPING OUT

Hymn #677 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
Hymns for the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**1. We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity
will one day be restored.**

**CHORUS: And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land.**

CHORUS

**3. We Will work with each other,
we will work side by side;
We will work with each other,
we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride.**

CHORUS

Benediction

Leader: We have heard the risen Jesus speak peace
and offer us hope through his very body.

We have danced with dreamers past and present.

Send us forth now, O God,

to live in the freedom of the peace that you still speak to us,
making our steps more sure each and every day.

And may the Loving God,
Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit
fill you with all you need
for the days ahead.

And all God's people said,
"Amen!"

Postlude

The Heart of Worship

Matt Redman

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$3,376
Calendar 2021 (Jan-March)	\$319,780
Calendar 2020 ()	\$35,077
Change from Last Year	-12.9%
Budget (July-Feb.)	\$270,560
Actual (July-Feb.)	\$244,882
Giving vs. Budget	-9.5%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	250lbs, \$20
Total YTD:	2,326 lbs, \$147

Easter Mission
\$1,123.00

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

Don & Marlene Steffy

Your support is especially important now as we work to provide spiritual care and connection for members and the community through Facebook posts, ads, and online worship.

Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News.

Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.